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385 North Arrowhead Avenue
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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

August 22, 2014

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 39 (Skinner) – As Amended on August 20, 2014 – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Skinner:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes AB 39, legislation that would convert Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo to a Designated Public Hospital. This bill sets a concerning precedent to expand the number of Designated Public Hospitals without any rationale or analysis regarding how this change will impact existing Designated Public Hospitals in California or improve care for low-income residents.

In San Bernardino County, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) serves as our County-operated Designated Public Hospital. ARMC provides essential health care safety net services to community members regardless of their ability to pay. The Medical Center serves this population through a state-of-the-art 456-bed facility, 24-hour emergency room, level-II trauma center, three family health centers and the only burn center in the region.

AB 39 would set a dangerous precedent by expanding the Designated Public Hospital system without thorough financial and legal analysis. The nature by which this legislation was introduced is also problematic in that it does not allow for proper research and stakeholder engagement needed to prudently vet such a complex proposal.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes AB 39. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Janice Rutherford
JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors Chair
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation